implementation of National Highway Development Project:

(i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport and Highways.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving state related problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues which impede the progress of the work.

(iv) This Ministry has been authorized to issue notification for acquisition of land for National Highways without referring to the Ministry of Law.

(v) To expedite the construction of railway overbridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to coordinate with Ministry of Railways.

(vi) Punitive actions have been taken against non-peforming contractors.

(vii) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of constractors by granting financial assistance.

Construction work on NH-57 in Bihar

†1123. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of the construction work on NH-57 including construction of section between Muzaffarpur and Fulparas under East-West corridor of National Highways Development Project in Bihar is very slow;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction work on NH-57 near Darbhanga and Sakri and from Sakri to Jhanjharpur has not yet been started even though the same has been allotted to the agency for execution;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite commencement of construction work between Jhanjharpur-Fulparas-Narhiya-Bhutaha, the progress with regard to the same is very unsatisfactory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in the context of all the above sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The 4 laning project of Muzaffarpur to Purnea Section (*via* Darbhanga, Sakri, Jhanjharpur, Fulparas, Narhiya and Bhutaha) of NH-57 in Bihar under East-West Corridor (NHDP Phase-II) has already started during January-March, 2006 and is in progress except the work of Kosi bridge and its approaches. The construction of bridge across Kosi river has already been awarded on Build, Operate and Transfer [(BOT)-(Annuity)] basis and construction work is likely to start after financial closure which is expected by April 2007. The construction work has been a bit slow for this stretch due to slow mobilsation of constructors resources for this stretch which passes through difficult flood prone area and is also having missing link.

(b) The construction work in Darbhanga-Jhanjharpur section of NH-57 has already started.

(c) and (d) The construction work between Jhanjharpur-Fulparas-Narhiya-Bhutaha section is in progress. Entire stretches of NHDP Phase-II in Bihar are targeted for completion by December, 2008 except Kosi bridge which is targeted for completion by March, 2010.

Proposals from Maharashtra for NHs

†1124. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from Maharashtra with regard to upgradation, impovement and development of National Highways;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi